



“THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA’S GLOBAL REACH”

United States Air Force Reserve
by Technical Sergeant Kat Justen, 2018

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Reserve Citizen Airmen with the KC-135 Stratotanker in concert with active duty and Air National Guard Airmen provide a core aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. Airmen maintain and operate this unique platform to enhance the Air Force’s capability to accomplish the global reach mission. It provides aerial refueling support to Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. The KC-135 also provides litter and ambulatory patient transport using patient support pallets during aeromedical evacuations. Pilots assume responsibility of the aircraft by taking the aircrew to where fuel is needed while boom operators offload fuel to aircraft such as fighter jets so they can remain airborne longer to accomplish their mission.

Today, the AF Reserve operates the KC-135 refueling mission from eight bases including the 434 Air Refueling Wing, Grissom ARB, IN; 452 Air Mobility Wing, March Air Reserve Base, CA; 459 ARW, Joint Base Andrews, MD; 507 ARW, Tinker AFB, OK; 914 ARW, Niagara Air Reserve Station, NY; 916 ARW, Seymour Johnson AFB, NC; 927 ARW, MacDill AFB, FL, 931 ARW, McConnell AFB, KS and MacDill AFB, FL; 940 ARW, Beale AFB, FL.

In this nocturne painting, Technical Sergeant Katie Justen, 459 ARW, public affairs, and artist for Air Force Reserve Office of History and Heritage, highlights Reserve Citizen Airmen maintainers from the 459 ARW performing routine engine maintenance on a KC-135 at Joint Base Andrews, MD.

AIR FORCE RESERVE

The Air Force Reserve is a combat-ready force, composed of more than 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen, stationed locally at over 60 locations throughout the United States and serving globally for every Combatant Command in air, space and cyberspace.

We are a cost efficient and mission-effective force, providing the nation with operational capability, strategic depth and surge capacity, both overseas and here at home. The Air Force Reserve’s wide-ranging operational capability serves the diverse needs of every Combatant Commander, whose requirements are as varied as the geographic and functional areas they support.

Air Force Reserve Command directly supports the homeland with capabilities, including aerial fire fighting, aerial spray, and weather reconnaissance, better known as the “Hurricane Hunters.” Our relationship with other federal agencies, including the National Weather Service and US Forest Service, demonstrates how federal, military and civilian organizations can work together to support the entire nation.

The majority of our Reservists serve alongside our active duty counterparts in association constructs. Approximately two-thirds of the Air Force’s associations are with the Air Force Reserve. Integrating through associations delivers significant taxpayer value, both in cost savings and improved mission effectiveness, by sharing aircraft, equipment and facilities with the active duty.

Value is also gained from “Airmen for Life” as the Air Force Reserve retains the experience and training cost of a member’s active duty service. As over 75 percent of our Reserve Citizen Airmen serve part-time, this combat-tested experience stays in a highly cost-efficient force, available whenever the nation calls. Further, the nation benefits from the intrinsic value gained by a member’s civilian experience in a variety of career fields, from pilots and nurses to space and cyberspace professionals.

AIR FORCE RESERVE MISSION

Provide Combat-Ready Forces to Fly, Fight and Win.

MISSION SETS

The Air Force Reserve currently performs about 20 percent of the work of the Air Force, including traditional flying missions and other more specialized missions, such as Weather Reconnaissance, Aerial Fire Fighting, Aerial Spray and Personnel Recovery.

WHERE AIR FORCE RESERVISTS ARE CURRENTLY SERVING OR DEPLOYED

Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti (Horn of Africa), El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guam, Guantanamo Bay, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Thailand, Turkey and Uganda.



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